

News Release

For Release: Immediately

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Phoenix, AZ – Governor Janet Napolitano released her 2007 Executive Budget today. The Governor's budget focuses on Arizona veterans. The following excerpts are from the budget submitted to the Arizona Legislature:

"The risks and sacrifices that veterans have made on behalf of our nation warrant our unfading appreciation and our commitment to accommodate their unique needs. Approximately 585,000 veterans are living in Arizona, and that population is certain to grow.

"Executive Order 2005-15 created the Arizona Veteran Task Force. In 2005 the Task Force analyzed and evaluated State services and benefits provided to Arizona's veterans and found those services and benefits to be inadequate. For example, there are rural counties in Arizona with thousands of veterans and no services provided by the State.

"The Executive Recommendation provided additional resources to support veterans, including:

- *\$10.1 million to build the Southern Arizona State Veteran Home;*
- *\$1.7 million for 40 new veterans benefit counselors, support staff, and veteran outreach programs statewide;*
- *an additional \$121,500 for maintenance and operation of the Southern Arizona Veterans Cemetery; and*

- *Replenishment of \$182,700... to begin the process of building a new cemetery in northern Arizona.*

Additional information may be obtained from the 2007 Executive Budget on the Governor's website at <http://www.ospb.state.az.us/documents/2007DetailBook.pdf>.

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